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Cirque Eloize Excentricus

Center for Performing Arts

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THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

THE PASQUINELLI
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Presents

CIRQUE ELOIZE



Excentricus

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, 3:00 p.m.

Governors State University
University Park, Illinois

THE PASQUINELLI FAMILY FOUNDATION

Presents

CIRQUE ELOIZE EXCENTRICUS

**A wild performance filled with
imagery and music...**

Following the tremendous success of 350 performances throughout United States, Canada and France, Cirque Éloize introduces its sparkling new creation: **Excentricus**.

Overflowing with magic and originality, **Excentricus** is a carrousel of movement, music and emotion. Christine Rossignol and Michel Dallaire, two of the most renowned circus directors in Europe, have created a rich and lively scenario in which sixteen acrobats, jugglers, clowns, aerial artists and musicians share moments of intense emotion and wonderment.

Excentricus features many familiar faces from the Cirque Éloize: Jeannot Painchaud, artistic director, headlining the show with his signature cycling act, Alain Boudreau, in a new breathtaking hand to hand duo, Daniel Cyr with a spectacular ladder number and Marc Gauthier with a powerful and graceful rope number all continue to dazzle the audiences.

Excentricus is a colourfully theatrical new circus experience, a feast for the eyes, the ears and the heart!

A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This creation is the fruit of an artistic process based on the simplicity of human exchanges and emotions. Initially, the challenge was multi-faceted: to enlarge the troupe to sixteen artists, to integrate the musicians into the stage concept, and to approach the circus numbers from a theatrical rather than acrobatic angle all the while preserving the brand of intimacy that has characterized this company since the beginning.

The energy and open-mindedness of Christine Rossignol, stage director, and Michel Dallaire, acting coach, has allowed the cast to become fully involved in the creative process, and inspired in them a spirit of collectivity and camaraderie.

In using the natural presence of the artists, Christine and Michel have developed warm and lively characters, bringing circus techniques that much closer to the spectator.

We now invite you to share with us these moments of pleasure.

Enjoy!

Jeannot Painchaud

A WORD FROM THE STAGE DIRECTOR

The show you are about to see is an original work, created with, by and for the artists you will see on stage. The concept is hinged on the development of the characters through the natural presence of the artists, bringing circus techniques closer to the spectator by keeping it at human scale.

Since its creation, the show continues to evolve while on tour. However, we have been careful to respect and maintain its natural fragility, intimacy, joyousness, and simplicity.

We hope to give it to you now with this essence intact.

Christine Rossignol

EXCENTRICUS

ARTISTS & MUSICIANS

Alain Boudreau	Hand to Hand
Damien Boudreau	Acrobat
Robert Bourgeois	Acrobat
Shana Carroll	Trapeze
Daniel Cyr	Ladder
Marcus	Rope
Jeannot Painchaud	Artistic Bicycle
Nadine Serrano	Contortion
Noemie Sirard Gervais	Hand to Hand
Les Voila	Clowns
Lucie Cauchon	Musical Director & Keyboards
Eric Bernard	Electric & Acoustic Guitars
Pat Donaldson	Bass
Laude Vendette	Saxophones, Keyboards
Ross Richard	Drums

TECHNICIANS

Louis Landry	Technical Director & Lighting Technican
Elise Duracher	Stage Manager & Tour Director
Bruce Cameron	Sound Engineer
Jeans-Yves Laroche	Rigger & Carpenter

CREATORS & PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Direction - Jeannot Painchaud
 Direction - Christine Rossignol
 Theatrical Direction - Michel Dallaire
 Original Music - Denis Hebert
 Music Arrangement - Eric Bernard
 Choreography - Catherine Archambault
 Lighting Design - Louis Landry
 Costume Design - Mireille Vachon
 Set & Props Design - Daniel Cyr
 Carpenters - Daniel Cyr, Daniel Waddell, Sofi Dagenais
 Make-up Design - Nathalie Gagne
 Production Direction - Elise Durocher
 General Direction - Claudette Morin
 Logistics & General Direction Assistant - Julie Hamelin
 Administration Direction - Ginette Prince
 Assistant - Julie-Catherine Paradis
 Artistic Assistant & Marketing - Marie Sylvestre
 Sales & Development - Vincent Messenger

ON STAGE

Trapeze - Shana Carroll

Nine years ago, at the age of eighteen, Shana decided she felt more comfortable in the air than on the ground and subsequently made the trapeze her home. At the start of the show, she is perched sleepily high above the stage, and as her dance unfolds she finds that the trapeze both frees her and holds her captive.

Artistic Bicycle - Jeannot Painchaud

Jeannot has been the co-founder and artistic director of Cirque Éloize since its creation in 1993. With more than ten years of experience on the professional scene, Jeannot has watched his own vision of a circus materialize before his eyes. Similarly, Jeannot is the awkward childlike protagonist in the show discovering and animating the rich circus world that surrounds him.

Comic Duo - Les Voilà!

After more than 1500 performances across the globe, this zany pair brings to Éloize a form of musical and physical comedy rarely found these days, their non-verbal humor crossing all boundaries of language and culture. When not taking center stage with their antics they are also valuable members of the band, adding color and originality to the score.

Contortion - Nadine Serrano

Only seventeen, Nadine makes her professional debut this year with Éloize. Girl and woman all at once, her sinuous and, at times, impossible movements display both youthful rawness and cunning sophistication.

Vertical Rope - Marcus

On his rope, Marcus creates two separate moments of emotional intensity. His pieces evoke passion and sadness, and finally bring the company together as only a drama can. A trained dancer, Marcus brings dramatic stage techniques to something that could just be a gymnastic exercise.

Group Juggling- Alain, Damien, Daniel, Jeannot et Robert

Seeing these five original members of the troupe around the stage with 15 clubs between them makes you wonder if there isn't something in the sharp ocean air of the Magdalen Islands that accelerates hand-eye coordination.

ON STAGE

Hand to Hand - Alain Boudreau and Noémie Sirard-Gervais

After enjoying great success with the celebrated hand to hand act "Trio des Îles", Alain now takes a new partner, the breathtakingly agile and bright-eyed Noémie. With her extensive gymnastic training and with Alain's eight years of circus experience, they create a number at once dynamic and tender, where their search for stillness in tandem requires as much skill and concentration as their mid-flight manipulations.

Balancing Ladder - Daniel Cyr

Another of the founding members of Cirque Éloize, Daniel uses a simple ladder as his instrument of magic. The ease with which he manipulates it, along with his wry, self-effacing presentation, belies the difficulty and the intricacy of the act.

Floor Acrobatics and Group Bicycle - All

An explosion of energy and high spirits as the entire cast plays with gravity and moving vehicles. It is in these numbers that we best see the breathtaking tumbling feats of the foolhardy Robert Bourgeois, seasoned acrobat, and highly skilled Damien Boudreau, formerly member of the famous hand to hand act "Trio des Îles". Funny and exuberant, much of the material rises from the troupe's acrobatic jam sessions, elevating boyish hi-jinks to the level of art. It's that spirit that permeated the founding of Éloize and it is their hope that the audience experiences the same joy and wonder as they do.

The Band

Lucie Cauchon / Musical Director

Eric Bernard, guitars

Pat Donaldson, bass

Ross Richard, drums

Claude Vendette, saxophones

Possibly the biggest change in this year's show is the decision to add live musicians. They come from various walks of life: some have toured with renowned recording artists, others with renowned circuses, one played on a popular television show, others in some smoky bars, and still another in a haunted house. They lend their distinct personalities not only to the music but the characters they play. Their constant presence on stage creates the ambiance that drives the show from one scene to the next.

About the company

The creative storm known as the **Cirque Éloize** was born in the Magdalen Islands (located off the coast of Quebec) in the autumn of 1993. Drawing their name from the local expression for heat-lightning, the seven founding members decided to create a daring new version of the European or "animal-free" style of circus.

Within two years, **Cirque Éloize** (pronounced el-was) had both awed and seduced their American audiences, having performed over 125 shows, including the opening of the newly restored New Victory Theater in New York City. Since then, the company has performed in Canada, France, Ireland and Asia. With over 300 performances to its credit, the **Cirque Éloize** is continuing to take Europe by storm while developing new audiences in Asia and Latin America.

With originality and boldness, **Cirque Éloize** proposes theatrically flavored performance entwined with brilliant circus skills while never jeopardizing the intimacy shared by the company and its audience. In the words of the L.A. Times, "the special effects are the artists".

For the 1997-98 Season, **Cirque Éloize** unveils its newest creation: **Excentricus**. Featuring 12 artists and 4 musicians, this production promises to continue the company's tradition of dazzling audiences around the world.

EXTRA SPECIAL

JOIN US ON
MOTHER'S DAY
WITH

DON MCLEAN

Sunday, May 10th



~4 FOR 1-0-4~

AN ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH. With one reservation you get two adults and two children, 12 years of age and under for ONLY \$104.00. **AND!!** an afternoon with **Don McLean**.

McLean burst onto the music scene with "gusto via" with his international hit AMERICAN PIE. Follow up hits include, CRYING, VINCENT, DREIDLE, JERUSALEM, SINCE I DON'T HAVE YOU, and of course AND I LOVE HER SO. Phone Early 708.235.2222

Brunch begins at 1:00 p.m. with a 3:00 p.m. show. The fantastic spread includes, omeletes, carved meats, eggs, french toast, breakfast meats, choice of potatoes, complete salad and pastry buffet. SEE YOU THERE!!

UPCOMING EVENTS



SECOND CITY

Saturday, April 18
8:00 PM



PINOCCHIO

Saturday, April 25
11:00 AM

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 P.M.

Monday, May 4, 11:00 A.M.
(abbreviated show, schools only)



DON MCLEAN

Sunday, May 10,
3:00 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL
708.235.2222. GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE PHONE
708.534.4121.